Kerala recognition of Trade Union Bill, 2007

976. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the competent authority of Kerala during November 2007 had submitted "Kerala Recognition of Trade Union Bill, 2007" for the concurrence of the competent authority of Central Government.

(b) if so, the details and action taken on the above submission;

(c) whether there is any delay in initiating action on the above bill;

(d) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(e) if not, the details and status of above bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala has forwarded the Kerala Recognition of Trade Union Bill, 2007 for obtaining the approval of the Government of India for its introduction in the State Legislature. The said Bill has been received in this Ministry on 7.11.2007. On receipt the Bill has been circulated to concerned administrative Ministries for examination from the three angles *viz.* (a) repugnancy with Central Laws, (b) deviation from National or Central Policy and (c) legal and Constitutional validity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Ministry of Labour and Employment has made observations on the Bill. The clarifications of the State Government on these observations have been referred to the Ministry of Labour and Employment for further consideration.

Communal clashes in States/cities

977. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there has been communal clashes in several States/cities of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken action against those responsible for instigating the violence; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available information, there have been 855 incidents of communal nature till November this year in various States/cities of the country.

Issues contributing to communal clashes, *inter-alia*, have been Sri Amarnath Shrine land issue, pelting of stones during religious processions, construction of religious structures on disputed land, property disputes, eve-teasing, attacks on religious structures, religious conversions, tearing of banners, playing of objectionable CDs/cassettes, transporting and slaughtering of cattle, objectionable publications, ethno-communal tensions, etc..

(c) and (d) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects as per the Constitution of India, the State Governments are primarily responsible for maintenance of law and order and taking action against those responsible for instigating violence.

Norms for declaring natural disasters

†978. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms adopted to declare disaster as natural disaster;

(b) whether special concessions are provided to the concerned State Governments after declaration of natural disaster; and

(c) whether all these concessions have been provided to Government of Bihar following declaration of Bihar flood as natural disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Inclusion of a calamity/disaster in the list of natural disasters eligible for assistance from CRF/NCCF comes under the purviews of the successive Finance Commissions. The present list of notified natural calamities, which is based on the Award of 12th Finance Commission, consists of cyclone, drought, earthquake/tsunami, fire, flood, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst and pest attack.

The assistance for relief in the wake of natural calamities is given to the States under the two schemes *viz.* Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) Schemes. The expenditure from CRF/NCCF is required to be incurred as per the items and norms approved by the Government of India. A CRF has been constituted for each State, which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Governments in ratio of 3:1. The State Governments are required to meet expenditure on relief and rehabilitation out of the corpus of the CRF. CRF is a ready availability of fund with the State Government. In case the calamity is of a severe nature and the funds available in the State's CRF account are not sufficient, additional assistance is provided to the States out of the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the established procedure.

The event of kosi breach and floods in Northern Bihar, is covered under the category of 'floods', which is one of the notified natural disaster. Financial assistance to the affected States including Bihar is being provided as per the above schemes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.